

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 01209 260300Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /080 W

----- 030638

R 252300Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1055

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: BOUGAINVILLE AND THE SOLOMONS

1. FONSEC TONY SIAGURU, WHO HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE BOUGAINVILLE TASK FORCE IN THE PM'S OFFICE FOR MANY MONTHS IN ADDITION TO HIS NORMAL DUTIES, TOLD ME AT LUNCH NOVEMBER 25 THAT HE IS PROFOUNDLY DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE OUTLOOK FOR BOUGAINVILLE. NOTHING DRAMATIC IS HAPPENING, BUT THERE IS A GRADUAL EROSION OF THE GPNG POSITION, HE SAID. HE CITED THE ACTION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SUPPORTING THE SECESSIONISTS AND MORE RECENTLY THE DECISION OF BOUGAINVILLE BUSINESSMEN TO PAY TAXES TO THE BOUGAINVILLE GOVT RATHER THAN THE GPNG.

2. THE TROUBLESOME ASPECT, SIAGURU SAID, IS THAT NO ONE IN THE GPNG IS REALLY FOCUSSED ON THE SITUATION. WHEN A CRISIS DEVELOPS, VARIOUS PEOPLE (INCLUDING HIMSELF) ARE DELEGATED TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM, BUT WHEN THE SITUATION RELAXES THEY GO BACK TO THEIR REGULAR JOBS AND NO ONE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO BOUGAINVILLE UNTIL THE NEXT CRISIS.

3. THE SAD PART OF IT IS THAT, EXCEPT FOR LEO HANNETT AND PERHAPS A FEW OTHERS, BOUGAINVILLEANS ARE NOT REALLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 01209 260300Z

EXERCISED OVER THE MATTER OF INDEPENDENCE, SIAGURU SAID.

EXCEPT FOR THE VERY SMALL HARD CORE, BOUGAINVILLEANS COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND TO THE IDEA OF REMAINING IN PNG WITHOUT ANY GREAT EFFORT IF THE GPNG WOULD ONLY FOCUS ON THE PROBLEM FOR A SUSTAINED PERIOD.

4. SIAGURU SAID HE DOESN'T EXPECT TO SEE ANYTHING DRAMATIC HAPPENING OVER PERHAPS THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, BUT AFTER THAT, HE SEES THE DRIFT AS BECOMING IRREVERSIBLE.

5. HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT THE RESIGNATION OF CHIEF MINISTER MAMALONI OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS WILL AFFECT THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOLOMONS GOVERNMENT BECAUSE HE BELIEVES MAMALONI WILL BE BACK AS CHIEF MINISTER, IF NOT ON DECEMBER 1 THEN IN THE NOT DISTANT FUTURE. HE SAID THAT MAMALONI HAD SAID DIFFERENT THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE ABOUT BOUGAINVILLE, AND THE GPNG WOULD BE SORRY TO SEE THE BRITS LEAVE AS THEY HAD BEEN A STABILIZING INFLUENCE.

6. COMMENT: UK HIGH COM BAKER TOLD ME A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT THE GPNG HAD ASKED HIM TO TELL THE UK GOVT THAT THE GPNG WAS UNHAPPY THAT CHIEF MINISTER MAMALONI WAS PERMITTING FATHER MOMIS TO USE THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AS A FORUM FOR BOUGAINVILLE SECESSIONIST SPEECHES. BAKER SAID THAT HE REPLIED TO THE GPNG APPROACH BY ASKING THEM IF THEY HAD EVER TRIED TO REASON WITH MAMALONI.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, POLITICAL SITUATION, BOUGAINVILLE, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTM01209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750411-0538
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751111/aaaaajok.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOUGAINVILLE AND THE SOLOMONS
TAGS: PGOV, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006